

# The Keith Community Council

## Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 04<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Time & Venue: 19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station

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#### Those in Attendance:

**Community Councillors:** Neil Kidd NK (Chair), Callum Stuart CS (Treasurer), Steve Hickin SH (Secretary), Stuart Chapman SC, Linda Gorn LG, Sam Hunt SaH, Davie Rough DR.

**Associate Member:** Kevin Mitchell, (KM), Watch Commander SFRS,

**Ward Councillors:** Cllr D. Gatt.

**Others Present:** Kim Hay - Community Development Officer for InKeith & Strathisla, Ralph Newlands AMEY,

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs and Chair N. Kidd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies were received from:** Cllr T. Coull, Cllr T. Colyer, Treasurer A. Inglis.

**Action = Apologies accepted and noted.**

#### **2. Proposal and Adoption of the Minutes of the May 2026 Meeting**

Proposed by: C. Stuart - seconded by: D. Rough that the minutes of the April 2026 meeting be adopted as drafted. **Action = Adopted as Drafted.**

#### **3. Kim Hay – InKeith & Strathisla Community Development Officer**

Kim Hay outlined her role with InKeith & Strathisla which is a part time position for two years.

Kim advised that she had submitted an expression of interest on behalf of Keith in the Town of Culture for 2028 and was waiting to see if the application had gone forward to the next round of the process.

Kim is also working on a quarterly newsletter for Keith, there will be a volunteer event hosted by InKeith & Strathisla in the Longmore Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

The Chair thanked Kim for her presentation.

#### **3a. Ralph Newlands – AMEY Roads Manager (Late Addition to Meeting)**

Ralph Newlands had attended tonight's meeting to address some concerns and the Chair allowed him time in the Agenda to give an update for Keith.

The A96 road surface through Keith has various places where it has cracked and sunk, one such place on Church Road adjacent to the North Church has been patched, other locations will be patched in due course.

Road markings on the A96 through Keith are in poor condition and a programme for remarking is in hand but there is a delay because of an issue with the paint used for the markings not sticking to the road surface.

There was a question about the previously proposed Pedestrian Crossing across the A96 adjacent to the North Church which has not been implemented. Ralph Newlands advised that this project was 'on hold' because of the narrow pavements in that location. He could not say when, or if, the crossing would be installed.

There was also a discussion about various signage on the A96 including the new 'Scots Toun' signs, the design of which had been accepted but not progressed.

The 20mph speed limit was also discussed and Mr Newlands pointed out that AMEY had nothing to do with the decision on a 20mph speed limit.

The Chair thanked Mr Newlands for his update.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the May 2026 Meeting**

##### Water Tankers on Edindiach Road to the Balloch

The amount of Water tanker traffic on this road has reduced but is still ongoing.

**Action = This will continue to be monitored.**

##### Zenobe Blackhillock Community Benefit Fund

Still awaiting funds to be deposited in the KCC bank account. **Action = Noted**

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### 5. Consideration of a KCC Website

#### Community Council Website

This item was deferred from last month's meeting while the Secretary asked the CCLO for advice.

The Secretary reported that the CCLO had advised that KCC could create their own website as and when we required.

SaH advised that a domain name was ready and the website could go live whenever we were ready, the domain name will be registered to KCC, SaH will be the site administrator and the Secretary will also have admin access.

**Action = Decision to go live pending, noted.**

### 6. Correspondence

The CCLO forwarded notification of the next meeting of the Joint Community Councils of Moray, (JCC), which will be at 7pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre.

**Action = Noted, SH and SC will attend.**

### 7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was unable to attend tonight's meeting and had forwarded a report of the Bank Balances.

#### Bank account balances:

Keith Community Council = £883.47  
Payment out = £50 Secretary's Honorarium.

Keith Christmas Lights = £11,581.41  
Funds In:  
Donation of £232.70 received from TESCO Bookstand.  
£105.87 from Donation tins.  
Payment out = £128.25 reimbursement to Treasurer for purchase of rope for Mid Street Bunting.

KCC Defibrillators = £1512.41  
Payment out = £132 for 1 x set of replacement Defib pads.

Keith Scots Toun = £2560.59  
No change from previous month.  
*Treasurer awaiting clarification from former KCC member and Treasurer M. Cruickshank on what these funds can be used for*

Keith in Flower = £1149.97  
Funds in = Donation of £194.78 received from TESCO Bookstand.

The Treasurer advised that they are still awaiting confirmation from Virgin Money that their access to the KCC Bank Account has been granted.

**Action = Treasurer's report noted**

### 8. Consideration of Funding Applications to the Zenobe Blackhillock Microgrants CBF

Due to time constraints the Chair deferred this item to AOCB.

### 9. Community Reports

#### Planning

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SC submitted his report of local planning items within Keith, he also raised the matter of other major projects surrounding Keith that are granted by the Scottish Parliament that Moray Council is consulted on but does not notify Community Councils.

**Action = Noted and SC will raise the matter at the next JCC meeting.**

#### Keith Matters

DR raised the matter that the Blackhillock Battery Storage site was getting bigger and the town had become surrounded by Wind Farms, Battery Storage sites and giant pylons to carry the cables to and from these sites. It was also pointed out that this ties in with Moray Council not notifying Community Councils of planning decisions from the Scottish Parliament.

**Action = Noted.**

#### Kevin Mitchell, Watch Commander SFRS

Report for April 2026 – Keith Community Fire Station Crews attended the following incidents:

We attended 17 fire calls:

*3 Special Services* = A Water rescue at Fochabers, Assist an Ambulance crew to gain entry in Keith, Assist the Police and an Ambulance crew to gain entry in Keith.

*5 Fires* = Small Kitchen Fire in Fochabers, Fire In Open at Newmill, Small House fire in Ruthven, Small House Fire in Huntly, Large House Fire in Huntly.

*8 False Alarms* = 1 Smoke Alarm Huntly, 1 Smoke Alarm Care Home Keith, 1 Smoke Alarm Fochabers, 1 Smoke Alarm Hospital in Dufftown, 1Smoke Alarm Serviced Apartments Keith, 1 smoke Alarm Hospital in Buckie, 1 Smoke Alarm Sheltered Housing in Keith.

*1 RTC* = 2 vehicle RTC at Huntley

*1 Standby* = Standby in Buckie.

#### Ward Councillors

Cllr Gatt:

Attended The Loft Youth Project for a visit by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Licensing Committee, Police, Fire & Rescue Committee, there is a full meeting of Moray council next week.

**Action = Noted**

#### KCC Sub Groups

Christmas Lights:

Funding has been received from the Edintore CBF for repair of fittings.

**Action = Noted**

#### KCC Defibrillators

Awaiting delivery of new lights.

**Action = Noted**

#### Keith in Flower

The new hanging baskets have been sent to Nairn for Filling.

The repairs to the Buggy have been completed.

**Community Reports continued**

#### KCC Defibrillators

All KCC Defibrillators are working and in service.

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### 10. AOCB

SC raised the matter of KCC members visiting other community councils to see how they handle planning matters the Scottish Parliament approves the Battery sites and Pylons.

**Action = SC to raise the matter at the JCC.**

### **Consideration of Funding Applications to the Zenobe Blackhillock Microgrants CBF**

This item had been deferred from earlier in the Agenda but because of the lateness of the meeting it was decided to further defer this item until the next KCC meeting or arrange a specific meeting to consider these funding applications.

**Action = Chair and Secretary to identify the best way forward for this item.**

There being no other relevant business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.20hrs.

**Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:**

**Monday 01st June 2026 @19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station**

*(Note: KCC does not hold meetings in January or August)*